



Urban Conservation Program

www.richmondhill-ga.gov/parks

Georgia has more than 24 million acres of forestland covering two-thirds of the state. While urbanization and population growth are changing land use in Georgia, the state's healthy and dynamic forests continue to play a vital role in the state's economy and overall quality of life. Georgia forests provide wildlife habitat, clean water, clean air, recreation and green space, at the same time, providing jobs and forest products.

Georgia's population is booming, and that has resulted in a tremendous increase in development, traffic and, unfortunately, tree loss and air pollution. However, did you know there is a pollution solution in our own back yard? Georgia's remaining forests provide a variety of healthy, ecological benefits that should be preserved and protected.

Trees process carbon from automobiles and factories, and they remove or trap lung-damaging dust, ash, pollen and smoke from the air. In addition, trees provide shade, which reduces temperatures and helps keep pollutants already in the air from becoming even more volatile. One acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people every day!



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Trees act as natural water filters and help slow the movement of storm water, which lowers runoff volume, soil erosion and flooding. Communities utilizing the important function of tree canopies may spend less money developing stormwater management infrastructure. During a heavy rain, a healthy forest can absorb as much as 20,000 gallons of water an hour!

Studies have found a correlation between community forests and the average amount of physical activity exerted by neighborhood residents. People are more inclined to get outdoors and exercise when their surroundings are greener. Logically, greater physical activity leads to fewer cases of obesity and its resulting health risks.

The Richmond Hill Urban Conservation Program has been established to maximize public benefits from community trees. The program highlights the benefits of local tree cover, preserving nature, creating awareness of local natural assets, and maintaining the community's urban forest. The public awareness campaign was created to bring consciousness and understanding of the benefits of tree cover to the community. The website provides educational and instructional information to enhance the awareness of local community forests as well as highlight the scenic beauty of Richmond Hill community forests. Visitors to the website will understand the quality and unique character of life in Coastal Georgia and the efforts made by the city to preserve trees and wildlife in the community. The website brings attention to and fosters an understanding of the value of trees in the community, while highlighting local parks and tree assets, and provides up-to-date event information.

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